

In the Claims

Cancel claims 1 to 10 without prejudice and substitute therefor:

B1 11. (withdrawn) The apparatus for rotating a wound lap (W) in a plane transversally to its longitudinal axis (LA), with a rotatably held receiver being provided on which the wound lap which is supplied by a delivery station is discharged. characterized in that the approximately vertically aligned rotating shaft (52, 58) of the receiver (50) is disposed outside of the bearing surface of the wound lap (W) in order to transfer the wound lap to a delivery position (US) from which it is supplied by transfer means (56) to a downstream means for producing a group (WG) of wound laps in which the face sides of adjacent wound laps have the same distance (a) and whose longitudinal axes (LA) are disposed in one line.

12. (withdrawn) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the rotating shaft (52, 58) of the receiver (50) is arranged, as seen in the delivery direction of the wound lap (W) from the delivery station, to the right or left outside of the zone which is disposed between the vertical planes in which the face sides of the wound lap are disposed.

13. (currently amended) The method in claim [1], 11 characterized in that the wound laps (W) supplied by the delivery station (1) are received by a rotating apparatus (60) and are transferred in the horizontal direction to a downstream longitudinal conveyor (12), with the wound laps (W) being rotated by an angle in a plane during their horizontal movement or directly before their delivery to the longitudinal conveyor (12) in which the longitudinal axis of the respective wound lap is disposed.

14. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 13, characterized in that the wound laps (W) are moved in the vertical direction before or after the rotating process.

15. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in one of the claims 13 to 14, characterized in that the wound laps (W) are rotated by approx. 90°.

16. (withdrawn) The apparatus for rotating a wound lap (W) in a horizontal plane transversally to its longitudinal axis (LA), with the apparatus (60) being provided with a vertically aligned rotating shaft (62), characterized in that the apparatus (60) is held in a horizontally displaceable manner in a guide element (70, 72) and is provided with at least one receiving means (63) for the wound lap delivered in intervals by a delivery station (1), with the receiving means (63) being fixedly connected with the rotating shaft (62) and means (14, 77) being provided in order to receive the wound laps (W) which are received and rotated by the apparatus (60) and to intermittently displace the same in order to form a group (WG) of wound laps, with the means (14, 77) being provided with a controlled drive (75) in order to form a group of wound laps (WG) from the wound laps (W) supplied by the apparatus (60) in which the face sides of adjacent wound laps have the same distance (a) and the longitudinal axes (LA) of the wound laps are disposed in one line.

17. (withdrawn) The apparatus as claimed in claim 16, characterized in that the apparatus rotates the wound lap by approximately 90° and that the longitudinal direction of the means (12) for forming the group of wound laps (WG) is aligned approximately parallel to the direction of delivery of the delivery station (1).

18. (withdrawn) The apparatus as claimed in one of the claims 16 to 17, characterized in that the apparatus (60) is provided with at least four receiving means (63, 63a, 63b, 63c) which project outwardly from the rotating shaft (62), with at least two each of the receiving means (63, 63b/63a, 63c) being disposed in one line.

19. (withdrawn) The apparatus as claimed in one of the claims 16 to 18, characterized in that the receiving means are provided with a non-slip layer.

21.(new) A method of conveying wound laps comprising the steps of  
producing a series of wound laps in a winding station, each of said laps having a web wound onto a tube about a longitudinal axis of the tube;  
delivering each wound lap successively from said winding station onto a conveyor belt extending in a direction parallel to said axis;  
sequentially rotating each wound lap delivered to said conveyor belt 180° to reverse a winding off direction of the web on the tube thereof;  
thereafter spacing the wound laps delivered to said conveyor belt in equi-spaced relation along said conveyor belt; and  
conveying the wound laps on said conveyor belt in stepwise manner longitudinally of said axis to a series of combing machines.

22.(new) A method as set forth in claim 21 wherein each wound lap is moved transversely of said axis before and after said step of rotating said wound lap.

23.(new) A method as set forth in claim 21 wherein each said wound lap is lifted from said conveyor belt prior to said step of rotating said wound lap and deposited onto said conveyor belt after said step of rotation.

24.(new) An apparatus comprising  
a conveyor belt for receiving a series of wound laps in equi-spaced relation for intermittent travel along a common longitudinal axis, each of said wound laps having a tube disposed in parallel to said common longitudinal axis;  
a rotatable shaft disposed perpendicularly of said conveyor belt at one

end of said conveyor belt; and

at least two receiving means mounted on opposite sides of said shaft, each said receiving means being positioned to engage within said tube of a wound lap delivered to said conveyor belt and to rotate the engaged wound lap at least 90° onto said conveyor belt in response to rotation of said shaft.

25.(new) An apparatus as set forth in claim 24 further comprising means for driving said conveyor belt in stepwise manner.

26.(new) An apparatus as set forth in claim 24 further comprising a lifting device for raising and lowering said shaft relative to said conveyor belt.

27.(new) An apparatus as set forth in claim 24 wherein the distance between said shaft and a wound lap to be rotated is equal to one-half the spacing between two adjacent wound laps on said conveyor belt.

28.(new) An apparatus as set forth in claim 24 wherein said shaft rotates 180° to place a wound lap on said conveyor.

29.(new) An apparatus as set forth in claim 24 wherein each said receiving means has a non-slip surface to receive said tube of a wound lap thereon.

30.(new) The combination as set forth in claim 20 wherein said means rotates each wound lap 180°.

31.(new) The combination as set forth in claim 20 wherein said means includes a rotatable shaft disposed perpendicularly of said conveying belt at one end of said conveying belt; and at least two receiving means mounted on opposite sides of said shaft, each said receiving means being positioned to engage a wound lap delivered to said

3) conveying belt and to rotate the engaged wound lap at least 180° onto said conveying belt in response to rotation of said shaft.

32.(new) The combination as set forth in claim 31 further comprising a lifting device for raising and lowering said shaft relative to said conveyor belt.

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